

South King County Projects Update

Edition 61, November 1, 2005

In this issue:

- South King County Traffic Closures This Week
- A Busy November for the Federal Way Direct Access Project
- Contractor Spotlight: ARM Construction
- Winter Tire Options
- Highway Advisory Radio Updates

South King County Traffic Closures This Week

Interstate 5

- The left lane of southbound I-5 between S. 336th St. and the Pierce County line will close nightly Monday through Thursday from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. for HOV lane construction.
- The left lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320th will close daily Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for HOV ramp and lane construction.
- Expect nighttime closures of the two left lanes of northbound I-5 between the Pierce County line and Military Road Mondays through Thursdays for the next few weeks for HOV lane construction. The first lane will close at 6 p.m., the second at 10 p.m. All northbound lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning. Rain may postpone this work and the associated lane closures.
- Expect weekday shoulder closures on I-5 from S. 320th to the Pierce County line for electrical work.

Highway 18

- The left lane in each direction of Highway 18 near I-5 will close nightly Monday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. for bridge widening work.
- **NEW:** The right lane in each direction of Highway 18 between Weyerhaeuser Way and Highway 167 will close nightly Monday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. for guardrail adjustment and other miscellaneous work.

Highway 161

- Expect weekday shoulder closures on Highway 161 between S. 360th and Milton Way while crews work to widen the highway.

City Streets

- **NEW:** Expect nightly closures of all lanes in both directions of Peasley Canyon Road between Peasley Canyon Way and S. 321st Street Monday through Thursday from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for pavement repair and ditch cleaning. A signed detour will direct drivers around the closure using S. 321st Street, Military Road and Peasley Canyon Way.



A Busy November for the Federal Way Direct Access Project

WSDOT and Sound Transit are preparing to open the HOV direct access ramps at S. 317th to traffic before the end of the year, weather permitting. We still need to pave the new HOV lanes between Military Road and S. 320th. Crews are hard at work placing crushed rock as a base for the new pavement. We also need to finish building the ramp walls and barrier in the median, and then pave the new ramps.

We need fair weather conditions to complete the paving, so we're unable to pin down a date for the opening as of yet. When we do open the ramps and bridge, they will be open for vehicles carrying two or more people and for motorcycles. Sound Transit and King County Metro buses will also begin using the ramps and bridge and the new Federal Way Transit Center at the next transit service change in February. For more project information, please visit [Sound Transit](#) and [WSDOT's](#) project Web pages.

Contractor Spotlight: ARM Construction

Last week we told you about WSDOT's primary contractor on the [I-5 HOV Widening Project](#), ICON Materials. ICON specializes in paving and site development. They hire other contractors to do work such as building concrete structures like retaining walls and bridges.

ICON's subcontractor for concrete structure work is ARM Construction, based in Seattle. Six ARM carpenters are on site, along with two ARM workers who operate equipment. ARM crews are building the additional width on the I-5 bridges that cross Highway 18 and S. 336th to accommodate the new HOV lanes.

ARM is also building the retaining walls that separate the northbound and southbound I-5 HOV lanes at S. 375th and at Highway 161. The retaining wall at S. 375th is nearly half a mile long, and ranges from 6 to 13 feet high. Crews began building that wall in July, and it is over 60% complete. The retaining wall at Highway 161 is 460 feet long and ranges from 6 to 9 feet high. We began work on that wall in September.

Winter Tire Options

Today marks the first day of the season that you can legally drive with studded tires on your vehicle. Studded tires are only legal from Nov. 1 to March 31. WSDOT is concerned about the estimated \$10 million in damage studs do to Washington State roads and highways each year, which in turn create safety hazards. That's why we remind you there are other winter tire options available. We encourage you to visit our [winter tire Web site](#) and your tire dealer and find out about tires that provide excellent traction in inclement weather and are legal for use year-round.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to 1520 AM to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail [Laura Johnson](#).